

REMARKS

Claims 10-17, 19, 25-34 and 38-52 are pending in the Application. Claims 10-13 are allowed. Claims 14-17, 19, 25-34 and 38-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Applicants cancel claims 14-17, 19, 25-34, 38-52 without prejudice or disclaimer. Hence, claims 10-13 are pending. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application to capture the subject matter of cancelled claims 14-17, 19, 25-34, 38-52. Applicants note that claims 14-17, 19, 25-34, 38-52 were not cancelled in light of the cited art but only to expedite the issuance of the allowable claims. The cancellation of claims 14-17, 19, 25-34, 38-52 is not to be interpreted as Applicants agreeing with the Examiner that the above-stated rejections are proper. In fact, Applicants believe these rejections to be improper as discussed in the response with the mailing date of December 19, 2005.

With respect to the rejections of claims 14-17, 19, 25-34, 38-52 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), these rejections are moot as Applicants cancelled claims 14-17, 19, 25-34, 38-52.

As a result of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 10-13 are allowed and respectfully request the Examiner to issue a notice of allowance allowing claims 10-13. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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